

## HOUSE BILL NO. 538

INTRODUCED BY E. BUTCHER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING A COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO RAFFLE OR AUCTION THE RIGHT TO USE AN EITHER-SEX ELK PERMIT TO RAISE MONEY FOR THAT VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF THE ELK PERMITS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, community volunteer fire, ambulance, or emergency services departments frequently rescue hunters, fight fires, and provide other necessary emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature desires to assist these volunteer departments in their efforts by allowing the volunteer departments to raffle or auction the right to use an elk permit and to use the raffle or auction proceeds to fund the volunteer departments' programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Raffle or auction of right to use either-sex elk permit -- funds for community emergency services -- conditions for issuance of elk permit.** (1) In addition to any yearly elk quota or part of an existing quota applicable to a district where an elk permit is drawn, the department shall make available an either-sex elk permit for each elk-drawing district for use pursuant to the terms and conditions of this section.

(2) Any community volunteer fire, ambulance, or emergency services department in the elk-drawing district may apply to the department for an elk permit provided pursuant to subsection (1). If there is more than one volunteer fire, ambulance, or emergency services department in the district, the elk permit must be granted to the volunteer departments on a rotating or combined basis. If there is more than one elk-drawing district in an area covered by a volunteer department, that volunteer department may not receive more than one elk permit a year.

(3) Each community volunteer fire, ambulance, or emergency services department that is chosen to receive an elk permit must be granted the elk permit free of charge. The volunteer department may raffle or auction the right to use the elk permit and must use all proceeds from the raffle or auction to fund the volunteer

1 department's programs.

2 (4) The winner of the raffle or auction must be a holder of a valid Montana elk license and may not have  
3 drawn a special elk permit for the current season. The elk permit may be used only in the designated district,  
4 pursuant to designated times and conditions of the permit.

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6 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
7 integral part of Title 87, chapter 2, part 7, and the provisions of Title 87, chapter 2, part 7, apply to [section 1].

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9 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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